GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4173
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2002
PLANT QUARANTINE AUTHORITY
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Finance Ministry has turned down the proposal to establish plant Quarantine Authority;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to overcome the hurdle in setting up this authority?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): The Finance Ministry has not agreed with the proposal.The work relating to plant quarantine is being done by the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage asper the provisions contained in the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914 and the Plants, Fruitsand Seeds (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 1989.Finance Ministry has suggested thatthe limitations of the existing Act/Order may be overcome through amendment of the Act/Order. Further, the Expenditure Reforms Commission recommended that no new autonomous body be created without the Cabinet approval.

(c): Since the Department of Expenditure has turned down the proposal twice, thisDepartment has been unable to establish a plant quarantine authority till date. However, the matter is being taken up again with Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance to get their concurrence on the establishment of the proposed authority.